

While the "dotcom bubble" resulted in a number of un-economic competitors to the LECs, it also stimulated a tremendous amount of development and kicked an industry which was bent on promoting ISDN in exciting and useful directions. These competitors are still far from established, and as such the Bells are clearly the dominant players. Until technologies such as Voice over IP have a chance to adjust to the new landscape, they deserve every chance to prove themselves.

The LECs may be seeing significant competition in some areas, but for now it is important to maintain a STABLE playing field to give the new competitors a chance to develop the organizational maturity that will allow them to compete on a level playing field.

We do not know what the best solutions will be in the future, but we DO know that if we leave this to the LECs alone (and they WILL be alone because they will crush the CLECs like bugs) we will return to the stagnation of the early 80's.

Do NOT remove these obligations from the LECs. At a time when we are all seeking islands of safety and security, let us use the ones we have to build strong, vital foundations.